

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

GOVERNMENT

VS.

CRIMINAL NOS. 3:23CR62 AND 3:23CR63

CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON

DEFENDANT

**TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING**

BEFORE THE HONORABLE TOM S. LEE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

MARCH 20, 2024  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

REPORTED BY: TERI B. NORTON, RMR, FCRR, RDR  
501 E. COURT STREET, SUITE 2.500  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201  
(601) 608-4186

1 APPEARANCES:

2 FOR THE GOVERNMENT:

3 ERIN O'LEARY CHALK, ESQUIRE  
4 GLENDA R. HAYNES, ESQUIRE  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
5 501 E. COURT ST., SUITE 4.430  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201

6 CHRISTOPHER PERRAS, ESQUIRE  
7 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
150 M STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

8 DANIEL GRUNERT, ESQUIRE  
9 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
950 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW  
10 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

11 FOR THE DEFENDANT:  
MICHAEL CORY, ESQUIRE  
DANKS, MILLER & CORY  
213 SOUTH LAMAR STREET  
13 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201

14 PROBATION OFFICERS: ALLIE WHITTEN, JAMIE HARRELL, JAMES TUCKER

15 ALSO PRESENT: TODD GEE, U.S. ATTORNEY  
PAT LEMON, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY  
LINDSAY CRANFORD, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
16 LUKE WILLIAMSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC  
INTEGRITY DIVISION, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

18 MALIK SHABAZZ, ESQ., AND TRENT WALKER, ESQ.,  
19 REPRESENTING EDDIE PARKER AND MICHAEL JENKINS.

20

21

22

23

24

25

1                   **THE COURT:** In the cases that the Court has been  
2 considering this week, Numbers 3:23cr62 and 63 respectively,  
3 the matter now set for hearing is the sentencing of  
4 Mr. Christian Dedmon. So come to the podium with your lawyer.

5                   **MR. CORY:** Good afternoon, Judge.

6                   **THE COURT:** Good afternoon.

7                   Mr. Dedmon, back on August 3rd of last year, you entered a  
8 plea of guilty in these cases with regard to the following  
9 counts: In Case Number 3:23cr62, Counts 1 and 13, conspiracy  
10 against rights, that's the denomination for each; Counts 2, 3,  
11 4, 6, 7 and 10, all of which charged deprivation of rights  
12 under color of law; Count 5, discharge of a firearm during a  
13 crime of violence; Count 11, conspiracy to obstruct justice;  
14 Count 12, obstruction of justice; and in Case Number 3:23cr63,  
15 Counts 1 and 2, each charging deprivation of rights under color  
16 of law; and Count 3, discharge of a firearm during a crime of  
17 violence. And you are before the Court this afternoon for  
18 sentencing.

19                   I've read the presentence investigation report in your  
20 case. Have you read the report with your attorney?

21                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

22                   **THE COURT:** Did you understand it? Did he answer any  
23 questions that you might have, and are you now able to tell the  
24 Court that you understand what the factual allegations are in  
25 the presentence report?

1                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

2                   **THE COURT:** Mr. Cory, do you confirm that you went  
3 over the presentence report with your client, explaining to him  
4 as necessary and answering questions, and that you believe that  
5 he understands what is reported in the presentence report?

6                   **MR. CORY:** Yes, Your Honor, I do.

7                   **THE COURT:** In the case objections were filed by  
8 counsel on your behalf, Mr. Dedmon, and the probation officer  
9 submitted an addendum which has been filed, an addendum to the  
10 presentence report, which references that certain objections  
11 were made, and that after a conference, the findings needed to  
12 be made or required are, first, that the Court must determine  
13 if the four-level aggravating role adjustment under Guideline  
14 Section 3B1.1 was appropriately applied, and also that the  
15 Court must determine if the five-level enhancement for serious  
16 bodily injury to EP was appropriately applied under Guideline  
17 Section 2A2.2 (b) (3) (B) .

18                  Mr. Cory, does that correctly cover the outstanding  
19 matters for the Court to resolve?

20                  **MR. CORY:** Yes, Your Honor.

21                  **THE COURT:** On those two issues -- and I read what  
22 you said in the paper that you filed -- do you have anything  
23 further to add in support of those objections?

24                  **MR. CORY:** No, Your Honor. We would stand on our  
25 previous submissions.

1                   **THE COURT:** Both of these objections are due to be  
2 overruled for the reasons set out by the probation officer.  
3 And it's not a lot said, so I will state what the addendum  
4 reflects as the recommendation to the Court, which the Court is  
5 adopting.

6                   As to the defendant's objection to the aggravating role  
7 adjustment under Section 3B1.1, as reflected -- and there's no  
8 rebuttal argument to that -- as reflected in paragraph 98,  
9 after being contacted by McAlpin, the defendant contacted  
10 Middleton, Opdyke and Elward and instructed them to avoid  
11 surveillance cameras and not to use excessive force on anyone's  
12 face. That is a justification that supports a finding that the  
13 adjustment was appropriately applied.

14                  And on the other one, as to the defendant's objection to  
15 the serious bodily injury enhancement for EP, again, there was  
16 no rebuttal argument. The term "serious bodily injury" is  
17 defined in the application notes to Guideline Section 1B. --  
18 let me get it right -- 1B1.1, comment in 1(M), as injury  
19 involving extreme physical pain or the protracted impairment of  
20 a function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty. While  
21 no medical aid was rendered to EP following his assault, he  
22 went through a prolonged beating and was tased multiple times  
23 to the point where he defecated on himself. So the Court finds  
24 that EP suffered serious bodily injury and the enhancement was  
25 appropriately applied.

1           I've already referenced the counts of conviction, but I'm  
2 now going to specifically do so. Counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10,  
3 and 13 provide for a statutory sentence of not more than ten  
4 years. Count 5 provides for not less than 10 years,  
5 consecutive to all other counts. Counts 11 and 12 provides for  
6 not more than 20 years. And in Case Number 3:23cr63, Counts 1  
7 and 2 provide for a statutory sentence of not more than 10  
8 years. Then with Count 3, a sentence of not less than 10  
9 years, consecutive to all other counts.

10           So to summarize and give the guideline provisions, Count 5  
11 provides for a ten-year consecutive sentence, consecutive with  
12 all other counts, as does Count 3 that I just referenced. All  
13 of the other counts provide for a guideline range of 210 months  
14 to 262 months.

15           Do counsel for the government and for the defendant  
16 understand the counts of conviction, the statutory sentences,  
17 and the guidelines that I've just enunciated?

18           **MS. CHALK:** Your Honor, the government does agree  
19 with the guideline calculations and assessments that the Court  
20 has just read into the record, but for the purposes of the  
21 record, may I add a couple of statements to the objections?

22           **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am.

23           **MS. CHALK:** I want to make clear that part of the  
24 government's argument in support of the aggravating role  
25 enhancement under Section 3B1.1, as the Court has already

1 applied to this defendant in reading what was referenced in the  
2 addendum, that this defendant was involved in -- with otherwise  
3 more than five participants, the defendant being one of the  
4 participants. He directed Hartfield, Opdyke and Middleton, as  
5 well as Elward, for a total of five participants, where to  
6 meet, how to enter, where to go, he created the text thread, he  
7 gave instructions. And all of that information, along with the  
8 extensive participation in the cover-up, the false reports,  
9 telling Hartfield also what to do subsequent to the entrance to  
10 the home and when they were gathering evidence for them to  
11 discard, that all warrants, along with what the Court has  
12 noted, the aggravating role enhancement.

13 And additionally, I want to correct one thing in the  
14 addendum that supports the enhancement for serious bodily  
15 injury pursuant to Section 2A2.2(b)(3)(B). EP did not defecate  
16 on himself. That was MJ only, Your Honor. However, the  
17 emotional and the extreme physical pain, as the Court noted,  
18 does warrant the serious bodily injury enhancement. I just  
19 wanted to make that clear for the record.

20 **THE COURT:** I was referencing the addendum with  
21 reference to that part of it. Mr. Cory, do you agree with the  
22 computation of the guidelines, what I've already expressed?

23 **MR. CORY:** Yes, Your Honor, we agree that the  
24 guidelines have been calculated properly.

25 **THE COURT:** And that the total offense level is 37,

1 and the Criminal History Category is I.

2 With that understanding, the Court adopts the presentence  
3 investigation report in its entirety both as to proposed  
4 findings of fact and including proposed guideline sentence  
5 application.

6 I'm now -- you may be seated. I'm going to call on the  
7 government with regard to the issue of victim impact, including  
8 the restitution.

9 **MS. CHALK:** Thank you, Your Honor.

10 We do intend to have our victims speak this afternoon.  
11 Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parker are present with their families.  
12 Alan Schmidt, who is the victim in this companion information,  
13 has chosen not to be present, and I will read his statement.  
14 But we are seeking restitution in the amount of \$48,000 for Mr.  
15 Jenkins and \$31,500 for Eddie Parker.

16 **THE COURT:** All right. I have those figures.

17 **MS. CHALK:** Thank you, Your Honor. If I may call up  
18 the victims.

19 **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am.

20 **MS. CHALK:** Thank you, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** All right. Proceed.

22 **MR. SHABAZZ:** Good afternoon, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** Good afternoon.

24 **MR. SHABAZZ:** Malik Shabazz. I'm going to read the  
25 statement of victim Michael Jenkins. And then I will bring

1 before you to make his own statement victim Eddie Parker and  
2 Mr. Melvin Jenkins.

3                   **THE COURT:** All right.

4                   **MR. SHABAZZ:** This is what Michael Jenkins has to  
5 say.

6                 "This day brings back bad memories for me. Deputy Dedmon  
7 is the worst example of a police officer in the United States  
8 of America. Deputy Dedmon was the most aggressive, most  
9 vicious, sickest, and wicked of those that attacked me.

10                "Dedmon is responsible for trying to take my manhood.  
11 Dedmon is deadly and responsible, and I would hope that you,  
12 Your Honor, hold him accountable to the maximum extent of the  
13 law.

14                "January 24th was the worst day of my life. I was  
15 brutally beaten and nearly killed by the Rankin County  
16 Sheriff's Department, also known as the Goon Squad, which one  
17 of its leaders is Mr. Christian Dedmon. I never would have  
18 thought a night of hanging out with friends would nearly cost  
19 me my life. They beat, kicked, tased, insulted me,  
20 waterboarded me, and they humiliated me, and that will be  
21 forever engraved in my mind and in my heart.

22                "I'm hurt, I'm broken, I'm ashamed and embarrassed by the  
23 entire situation. They did some unimaginable things to me that  
24 affects me, and it will forever linger in my life. Every time  
25 I try to take a bite of food, the pain reminds me of what

1 happened that night.

2           "All the things I used to enjoy doing in my life have been  
3 affected. I'm a musician and a singer, and now, because of a  
4 gunshot wound to my jaw, I can no longer do what I love to do,  
5 and that's sing. I play the drums for my church, and because I  
6 was shot in the face, it affected my vision, so I can no longer  
7 play. Waking up at night covered in sweat because of the  
8 nightmares of the attack, loud noises, police lights, sirens,  
9 they all give me fear and anxiety. I'm broken inside. I don't  
10 ever think I will be the person that I was. I try every day to  
11 do some of the simple things that I used to enjoy doing, but  
12 can't, all because the real goons took it upon themselves to  
13 shoot me. I could be dead and gone, but the God I serve had  
14 other plans.

15           "I'm currently undergoing therapy from my psychologist in  
16 order to heal from what happened to me. I want all of them to  
17 remain behind bars and to be off the streets, and I'm praying  
18 for the maximum time for the Goon Squad."

19           That is Michael Jenkins' statement, and I now bring before  
20 you Mr. Eddie Parker, who will speak for himself.

21           **MR. EDDIE PARKER:** Thank you for giving me this  
22 chance, Your Honor, to speak. It happened on January 24th. It  
23 raised a lot of memory. It stopped a lot of time. It made a  
24 lot of sense. It broke a lot of dark and light, if that makes  
25 sense.

1           I've been in Rankin County for 39 years of my life. I  
2 kind of know the ins and outs of a lot of things. I've had my  
3 share of getting in trouble, you know, doing this and that,  
4 never to be considerate of others, as far as I guess my  
5 troubles that I got into. I'm not making light of it in no  
6 way. To grow up and not experience and then have the type of  
7 life that -- I guess that warrants what happened. I knew, you  
8 know, what it was, as soon as I saw them walk through the door.

9           When I walked out of my bedroom door, I saw this guy here,  
10 Christian Dedmon, his flashlight. I'm like, oh, man, that's  
11 what it is. It made me realize just being out in the streets,  
12 you know, they say trouble will find you, you will find  
13 trouble, you will find evil. That night I saw the devil come  
14 to me. I saw the devil in my face, in my home, where I was  
15 supposed to have been safe, where I was supposed to be out of  
16 trouble. What did I do to get this? Nothing. Why would  
17 I (unintelligible), no reason. Why he called and say black  
18 people was in his neighborhood? I didn't see a sign on the end  
19 of the road that said, this is this guy's road, please no black  
20 people allowed.

21           I'm the only black guy on that road. I know this for a  
22 fact. I'm not there because I choose to be. I'm not there  
23 because I have to be. I'm there helping a friend that has been  
24 paralyzed for over 20 years, that this man has been there  
25 countless times terrorizing. This done happened more than once

1 at this 135 Conerly Road. I went there knowing that that  
2 happened at 135 Conerly Road, more than once.

3 You know, if nobody do anything good, it will follow.  
4 right? It will. When it's too much good, that's when the  
5 devil come out. Maybe I was doing too good. I sat there and I  
6 told that man -- I pleaded with him, This is not what I'm here  
7 for. I'm telling him, This is what I'm here for. This is my  
8 friend, I'm helping my friend. Didn't get any kind of -- did I  
9 get any kind of understanding? Not once. No sympathy. I  
10 didn't need it.

11 That man sat on the bed Indian style smiling the whole  
12 time. It was funny for them. It was like they were going to  
13 play basketball. Pass me the ball.

14 I'm sitting there and Mike asked me, You think they are  
15 going to let us go? What I knew to say to this guy, that I  
16 knew but he didn't, it killed me not to tell him the God honest  
17 truth what I thought was going to happen to us. In my head, we  
18 were fixing to die. I told him, no, we are going to jail, we  
19 are fixing to go to prison, going to get about 30 or 40 years.  
20 Check that record. I've been there. I've heard it.

21 Thirty-four years with this Goon Squad.

22 That last time he asked me did I think he was going to let  
23 us know, I promised him that I was going to make sure he was  
24 going to be all right when we got in jail. I told him, I got  
25 you, bro. I got you. Thirty seconds later, he was saying, He

1 shot me, man. He shot me.

2 What did he do? Nothing. What did any one of them do?  
3 Nothing. Can I ask something to you, like, on this -- that a  
4 lot of them don't pinpoint? That they had a lot of time while  
5 Michael Jenkins was laying on that floor bleeding out. They  
6 picked me up. The big house (unintelligible) -- brought me  
7 through the kitchen, around back, and then out front through  
8 the rain, no shoes on, no shirt. So the washing off that we  
9 just got was for no reason.

10 They uncovered evidence. They didn't -- you know, they  
11 didn't get anything. I found the shell casing. I found the  
12 bullet that went through my friend. I found everything they  
13 tried to get. If God wasn't there, we wouldn't be here. So  
14 the devil came and tried to take me, you know. He tried to  
15 take me, man. God, God made sure.

16 They were so sloppy, because you don't pay attention, you  
17 don't pay attention, you will let evil back. If you don't pay  
18 attention, you will slip up and let people know how evil you  
19 are. God did that. Everybody there that had anything to do  
20 with this case, I mean, I think about it too, God was with me.  
21 The FBI did an awesome job with this. I could solve my case.  
22 I solved our case. You know, God solved our case. And the  
23 reason why we solved our case was because the devil was sloppy.  
24 Don't let the sloppy devil get out of here and think that he  
25 can go out there and do this all the time.

1           I've been waiting on this for ten years. Ten years they  
2 been brutalizing my friends. I have a friend down there now  
3 that's on probation for 30 years. Why? Because he played with  
4 the devil. The devil shouldn't be let loose. You see, God had  
5 a lot of time down. He had to lock him up. You hear around  
6 the world all the time, folks (unintelligible) -- the screams  
7 and all coming out from some kind of crack or something. The  
8 devil is wanting to get out. The devil wanting to get out.  
9 Well, let me tell you something, God got him.

10           Judge, today God got you. Tomorrow has you. Go with God  
11 today, tomorrow. You know what is right. We know what is  
12 right. What the devil did was wrong. Christian Dedmon is a  
13 prime example, I mean. Look at him. He's the devil. In God  
14 we trust? In God we trust. Thank you, Judge.

15           **THE COURT:** All right.

16           **MR. SHABAZZ:** Thank you, Your Honor. Mr. Melvin  
17 Jenkins, and then we will be done. Thank you, Your Honor.

18           **THE COURT:** All right.

19           **MR. MELVIN JENKINS:** Your Honor, good afternoon.

20           **THE COURT:** Good afternoon.

21           **MR. MELVIN JENKINS:** Your Honor, again, I apologize.  
22 When you know better, you do better. So I'm going to do  
23 better.

24           But Your Honor, you don't keep kicking a dead horse, so I  
25 won't keep going over and over it, but I would like to ask you,

1 if you would, to give this guy as much time as you can.

2 My son told me he laid on that floor -- now, he told me 45  
3 minutes, but I'm sure by being shot, he don't really know. But  
4 you could see the puddle of blood on the floor, you can tell  
5 that he laid there for quite a while. It was massive. You  
6 know the carpet soaked a lot of it up, but you could see just a  
7 massive amount of blood. I went out there the next day.

8 My son said that when they shot him, they still didn't  
9 unhandcuff him. They left him handcuffed on that floor face  
10 down. So when they run out -- they went out, and they would  
11 come back in, one of them would come back in and kick him in  
12 the head to see if he was dead. Didn't call the ambulance,  
13 hadn't -- hadn't took the handcuffs off. They just -- I mean,  
14 what kind of people are these guys?

15 And I have noticed they are young. I mean, they are not  
16 old. I mean, how do you learn this much hatred in that little  
17 short length of time? I saw the daddy said he taught the boy  
18 right, but what happened? I mean, what happened to him? Where  
19 did they go astray? Where did they get this from? And like I  
20 said, they are so young.

21 It's only a couple of them that could even have known  
22 "Goon" Jones, because I'm 68. And as young as he is, he  
23 probably didn't even know "Goon" Jones. So where is this  
24 coming from is my question? How do you do another human being  
25 like this?

1           Your Honor, I'm not criticizing the lawyer, the last  
2 lawyer, and I know you told me not to say -- not to criticize,  
3 and I'm not. I just want to quote. It's not really a quote,  
4 it's just something he said that stuck to me. I don't know the  
5 law. I don't know how the points and stuff works, but he was  
6 trying to say that his client did less than this client. His  
7 client was on I-20. He wasn't even there. He didn't tase  
8 nobody, but he was there. He took a part in it, and he's a --  
9 I'm so thankful to you that you saw through them alligator  
10 tears and you gave him as much time as he could get.

11           And to me, it is a group thing. If you was there, you  
12 participated, you ought to get the same -- all of y'all should  
13 get 20 years. No, no, I take that back. You ought to get  
14 life. If you can treat another human like that, you don't  
15 deserve to be on God's green earth, to tell you the truth. I  
16 couldn't even imagine doing another human like that.

17           Thank you, Your Honor.

18           **THE COURT:** All right, sir.

19           **MR. SHABAZZ:** Thank you, Judge.

20           **THE COURT:** Ms. Chalk, do you have anything further?

21           **MS. CHALK:** Yes, Your Honor, I do. Your Honor, Alan  
22 Schmidt, who is the victim in 3:23cr63 submitted the following  
23 impact statement.

24           "Dear Honorable Judge Lee: My name is Alan Schmidt. I'm  
25 a victim of the former Rankin County Sheriff Officers Christian

1 Dedmon, Hunter Elward and Daniel Opdyke. Before I get into the  
2 graphic details of the dreadful night of December 4, 2022, when  
3 I was assaulted by Dedmon, Elward, and Opdyke, I want to  
4 express that I pray to God for these officers' souls to be  
5 healed from the evil within to cause them to commit these acts  
6 on others. I pray every day that I can forgive them one day  
7 and hopefully forget the humiliation and the evil physical and  
8 sexual assaults that I endured from Dedmon, Elward, and Opdyke.

9 "I know that I'm not their only victim, and I pray for  
10 each victim that has crossed paths with the Goon Squad members  
11 Dedmon, Elward and Opdyke. The acts committed upon me on  
12 December 4, 2022 have impacted my life in such a negative way  
13 that it will take years to lead to a somewhat normal life  
14 without having flashbacks of the night of December 4, 2022.

15 "On the night of the assault, I was pulled over for an  
16 expired tag near I-20 and State Street near the border of  
17 Rankin and Hinds County. A traffic stop initiated and I  
18 complied with the original officer's commands. And then  
19 Christian Dedmon arrived shortly thereafter, immediately  
20 ordering officers to cuff me and take me to Dedmon's vehicle.  
21 When Dedmon got me to his vehicle, he yanked me down, hitting  
22 my head on the back right quarter panel of Dedmon's Rankin  
23 County Sheriff's Department-issued vehicle.

24 "My head hit the panel by the wheel, leaving a dent on the  
25 vehicle, and my eyes began to see spots. I could not think

1 clearly, I could not see, I could not protect myself, and I was  
2 scared for my life already. I was already scared for my life  
3 as I was being assaulted on the side of the road, and then my  
4 life flashed before my eyes. I thought I died. I knew my time  
5 was over.

6 "Christian Dedmon demanded that I confess and disclose the  
7 location of stolen items in Jackson, Mississippi, which I did  
8 not know. Dedmon responded to my lack of knowledge by  
9 discharging his gun towards me. Then I felt the barrel of the  
10 gun on my temple. I was shaking. I almost used the restroom  
11 on myself. I was humiliated. I was scared. It is hard to  
12 finish writing this paragraph.

13 "The images are so graphic. The fear is unexplainable. I  
14 did not know it was possible for any human to feel this way.  
15 Dedmon asked me several more times where the stolen items were.  
16 I did not know. So I told him that I did not have what he was  
17 looking for. This time Dedmon shot the gun closer to my head.  
18 I thought, this is it. I will never see my family again and  
19 these officers will get away with it. At this point, I was in  
20 shock.

21 "The next thing I remember is being beaten, punched and  
22 kicked. I thought to myself it would stop soon. They were on  
23 a power trip and would stop. I was wrong. It seemed like it  
24 was going to last forever. Nobody helped me. Nobody stepped  
25 in to stop them. Nobody cared. I wish the officers understood

1       that I'm a human being, just like them. I hurt, just like  
2       them. I feel, just like them.

3            "I finally began to pray to God out loud to save me. I  
4       know that nobody is perfect, I know that I've made mistakes in  
5       the past, but I would never treat another human being or living  
6       creature the way I was treated by the officers sworn to protect  
7       the Constitution and our rights. The louder I prayed, the  
8       harder I was beaten.

9            "I began to slip into unconsciousness and passed out, and  
10      the assault finally stopped. The pain was excruciating. I was  
11      still cuffed from the time Dedmon arrived on scene throughout  
12      the assault, being shot at and then sexually assaulted.

13            "When I was able to gather my bearings and surroundings, I  
14      was being walked by Hunter Elward and Christian Dedmon and then  
15      forced to my knees in front of Dedmon. Dedmon pulled his  
16      private part and began hitting me in the face with it. Dedmon  
17      tried to put his privates in my mouth, but I kept my mouth as  
18      tight as I could. I could not help but think during this,  
19      'What sick individual does this? He has so much power over us  
20      already, so to act this way, he must be truly sick in the  
21      head.' I did not think I was in reality anymore. This is not  
22      the world we live in. We are better than this.

23            "Since I would not touch Dedmon or Elward's privates and  
24      kept screaming, no, that they are sick for this, they pulled my  
25      pants down. I was still handcuffed and defenseless. The

1 officers started touching my private parts. Dedmon grabbed my  
2 privates and said, 'My, you have a big one,' and dry-humped me.  
3 I kept screaming that they are sick and to let me go. The  
4 assault eventually stopped when the officers took me to jail.

5 "My face was injured pretty bad and they knew it, but they  
6 didn't take me to the hospital or even have medical evaluate me  
7 at the jail. Nobody cared.

8 "I have flashbacks to this day if certain things happen.  
9 If my pants are around my knees with me pulling them up, I  
10 think about it and get short of breath. If I see a cop car, I  
11 break out in sweats. I'm terrified of guns and shake if I hear  
12 a loud unexpected noise. When I drive down I-20 where the  
13 incident took place, I think about it every time.

14 "This will not escape me. I never want to see these  
15 officers again. They sexually assaulted me. They physically  
16 and mentally abused me. My life has forever changed because of  
17 the actions of these officers. I pray that the justice system  
18 will hold them to the fullest extent of the law for all our  
19 sakes. Police are supposed to serve and protect.

20 "This is my truth. This is what happened to me. Thank  
21 you for taking the time to read my statement. I have the  
22 utmost faith that justice will be served. Yours truly, Alan  
23 Schmidt."

24 Your Honor, that is all we have from the victims.

25 **THE COURT:** All right. The last couple of sentences,

1       when the time came for the defendant to exercise his right of  
2 allocution, the process has been for the defendant and his --  
3 he and his counsel make a presentation, followed by the  
4 government. Then the defendant may conclude. Is that  
5 agreeable to both sides?

6           **MR. CORY:** Yes, Your Honor.

7           **MS. CHALK:** Yes, Your Honor.

8           **THE COURT:** Okay. Let Mr. Dedmon come to the podium  
9 with counsel.

10           As I just indicated, Mr. Dedmon, you have the right of  
11 allocution. You may tell me anything I need to hear with  
12 regard to the sentence to be imposed in these cases, with  
13 particular emphasis on matters that you contend should be  
14 considered in mitigation of punishment. You can speak, your  
15 lawyer may do so, or both of you may. And then if you have  
16 anything further, you can present that.

17           **MR. CORY:** Your Honor, Mr. Dedmon wishes to allocute,  
18 but we will rely primarily on our sentencing memorandum that  
19 was previously submitted and the letters that we submitted. I  
20 do have one point I want to emphasize from our sentencing  
21 memorandum.

22           **THE COURT:** Hold on to your thoughts, but I will -- I  
23 have read all the letters, and they will be made a part of the  
24 record, as well as your sentencing memorandum, and if there's  
25 anything you want to emphasize, and you just indicated you

1 wanted to say something, but proceed.

2           **MR. CORY:** Yes, Your Honor. The government in this  
3 particular case is asking for this Court to sentence Mr. Dedmon  
4 to 41 years for what happened that night. And while there's no  
5 excusing what happened, there's no justifying his behavior, and  
6 I don't want to make any comparisons to anybody else, I do  
7 think it is important that the Court consider the differences  
8 in the people that were there that night and what their roles  
9 were.

10           To sentence Mr. Dedmon to 15 or 20 years more than anyone  
11 else, and in particular the supervisors that were there that  
12 night, I believe would create an unwarranted sentencing  
13 disparity and an unfair sentencing disparity, even in light of  
14 the charges that Mr. Dedmon has pled guilty to.

15           The chief investigator for the Rankin County Sheriff's  
16 Department, and I know the Court already knows most of this and  
17 I don't want to belabor the point, but that was Brett McAlpin.  
18 He put everything in motion when he told Christian Dedmon to  
19 take care of the problem at Conerly Road.

20           Christian Dedmon was 28 at the time. He had been at  
21 Rankin County for 6 or 7 years. He should have known better,  
22 but everybody knew what that expectation was. Everybody knew  
23 that was the culture of the department, and that's how you got  
24 ahead, that's how you did it. Again, that is no excuse,  
25 because everybody could have made different choices, but the

1 people -- the concept that the supervisors, who are the bosses  
2 that have that responsibility, can escape or have lower  
3 responsibility than the people they supervise when they are on  
4 the scene I think is an unwarranted sentencing disparity. The  
5 supervisors are the ones that are supposed to be there for a  
6 reason.

7           Former Lieutenant Middleton and Chief Investigator  
8 McAlpin, they were both there that night. They were present.  
9 And just because they didn't put their hands on Mr. Parker and  
10 Mr. Jenkins does not exonerate them or entitle them to be  
11 sentenced below or Mr. Dedmon and others to be sentenced to  
12 significantly greater terms when they were simply abiding by  
13 the culture. And again, that's not to excuse anything that  
14 happened or any decision Christian Dedmon made.

15           But when -- I mean, Lieutenant Middleton presented a chart  
16 to the Court, and they could have added another column on that  
17 chart that said, "What did the supervisors do to stop any one  
18 of those things." Everybody had a responsibility to do  
19 something, but the supervisors had the most responsibility to  
20 stop and stop what was happening. And if Christian Dedmon and  
21 Mr. Opdyke and Mr. Elward were not doing exactly what their  
22 supervisors wanted, they would have intervened, they would have  
23 stopped it, but that's not what happened. And that does not  
24 excuse it, but it is significant to me that the government is  
25 asking -- despite the inexcusable conduct of Mr. Dedmon, they

1 are asking for 15 or 20 years more than the supervisors in  
2 time. And the question about what happened to these gentlemen,  
3 they went to work for the Rankin County Sheriff's Department,  
4 and they should have left, but they didn't. But that's the  
5 full picture.

6 And when Christian Dedmon fired his gun the first time,  
7 which he should have never done, he did it to intimidate and  
8 scare Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parker. There's no excuse. But his  
9 boss was there. He was there. He heard it, at the very least,  
10 even if he was back in the room with Lieutenant Middleton  
11 trying to get whatever he could out of the room.

12 And my only point is, to me, it's an injustice to sentence  
13 Christian Dedmon to significantly more time than his  
14 supervisor, who was there, who initiated it, who didn't stop  
15 it, and who obviously -- that was what was expected of these  
16 gentlemen.

17 With that being said, that's all I have. I don't know if  
18 the government wants to respond to that, or Mr. Dedmon is  
19 prepared to allocute.

20 **THE COURT:** Does Mr. Dedmon want to address the Court  
21 now or after the government's --

22 **MS. CHALK:** We prefer to make our statement in  
23 response after Mr. Dedmon allocutes, if that's okay with the  
24 Court.

25 **THE DEFENDANT:** Judge, thank you for giving me this

1 time. I want to tell Mr. Eddie and Mr. Parker how sorry I am  
2 for what they went through, what they are going through and  
3 what they will go through forever.

4 The lies I told on them, I will never forgive myself for  
5 it. The pain I caused them, I will never forgive myself for  
6 it. If I could take every bit of it back, I promise you I  
7 would, or if I could take it myself, I would.

8 Sir, I got into law enforcement not as a devil. I really  
9 wanted to make a difference in my community. I stand before  
10 you today, 29 years old, with a sound mind that I can make  
11 choices for myself, sir. As my attorney said, there was a  
12 culture of doing things, and I'm probably the only person 28  
13 years old that was ever promoted to narcotics investigator in a  
14 county as big as Rankin as fast as I was, and it was because  
15 instead of choosing to do the right thing, I chose to be a  
16 show-off for an expectation of the ones that came before me and  
17 became my boss. That is not an excuse, but it is the truth,  
18 sir.

19 I take full responsibility for what I done. Mr. McAlpin,  
20 Mr. Middleton, Mr. Elward, Mr. Opdyke, nobody made me do the  
21 things I done, and I will live with them for the rest of my  
22 life.

23 With respect to the I-20 incident, sir, the things I pled  
24 guilty to against Mr. Schmidt, I did. I shot into the ground  
25 to scare him, to tell me where stolen property was of a very

1 close family member of mine. It's something I take full  
2 responsibility for doing that, and I know that it's wrong. But  
3 respectfully, sir, the sexual assault just did not happen. I'm  
4 sorry. That's just a lie.

5 I hope all three of these gentlemen can forgive me one  
6 day, and I hope that after my time that I can be a part of my  
7 little girl's life and be a contributing member to society and  
8 make up for the person that I became. Thank you, sir.

9 **THE COURT:** All right. Proceed for the government.

10 **MS. CHALK:** May I have just a moment, Your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am.

12 **MS. CHALK:** Thank you, Your Honor.

13 I'm going to touch on a couple of things that were just  
14 stated by Mr. Cory and his client before I read a little bit  
15 more into the record.

16 Mr. Cory is making the argument that his client should not  
17 receive a sentence that is greater than one of the supervisors  
18 and that this Court did sentence Mr. Middleton earlier, but  
19 Mr. Middleton did not have the same charges that this defendant  
20 is facing. So there is no unwanted or unwarranted disparity.

21 He initiated the incident after he received the call from  
22 McAlpin. He called those officers he knew would carry out what  
23 he wanted to do. He started the text thread.

24 Part of the sentencing memo Mr. Cory has submitted to the  
25 Court, he indicates that Dedmon did not direct anyone to cause

1 serious bodily injury to anyone and he did not personally cause  
2 serious bodily injury to anyone, he was not in charge at the  
3 scene, and he did not direct the subsequent cover-up. Your  
4 Honor, we submit, based on everything the Court has heard, that  
5 that is just simply not true.

6 He initiated the incident once he received the call. His  
7 use of the taser from the minute they entered into that  
8 residence, unwarranted, not a "knock and talk," simply a bust  
9 through the door, with no rhyme or reason. Initiating his use  
10 of taser gave the okay for everyone else who had a taser to use  
11 theirs or to use their hands and fists if they didn't have a  
12 taser.

13 And the assault and the torture started then and did not  
14 end for at least 88 minutes. Mr. Dedmon claims he did not  
15 personally cause serious bodily injury to anyone. Your Honor,  
16 you have heard from Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parker and their family  
17 members about the injuries that they endured, from the food  
18 poured on them, to the repeated tasers, to the force to be  
19 showered together, to the hitting with swords and wooden --  
20 pieces of wood and a wooden kitchen implement, just to name a  
21 few.

22 And I believe you just heard Mr. Parker talk to you about  
23 he saw Christian Dedmon sit on a bed Indian style and watch.  
24 How is that someone who is not in control of a scene?

25 He was extremely involved in the cover-up. He came up

1 with the drugs to submit to a crime laboratory in the name of  
2 Michael Jenkins, when not the first piece of narcotics was  
3 recovered from that home. He orchestrated that. He  
4 orchestrated the picking up of the shell casings. He made sure  
5 that the DVR player had been removed from that home.

6 Let's talk a little bit about the I-20 incident. When  
7 this defendant pled guilty before Your Honor, the government  
8 read the following into the record: "Dedmon, who did not have  
9 his firearm with him, reached over and took Opdyke's firearm  
10 from its holster. Dedmon got in AS's face, raised the gun and  
11 pointed it away from AS, then fired multiple shots. Dedmon  
12 also grabbed and squeezed AS's genitalia and threatened to kill  
13 him in order to extract a confession. Dedmon knew that it was  
14 unlawful for an officer to attempt to coerce a confession by  
15 firing a gun using excessive force and making a threat to  
16 kill."

17 When those facts were read into the record, Your Honor,  
18 the defendant agreed with those facts and at no time corrected  
19 those but would like the Court now not to believe the  
20 recitation that was provided to the Court at the time of his  
21 change of plea or by the victim's statement.

22 And as we've been stating to the Court, on January 24,  
23 2023, this defendant and his codefendants, while acting as  
24 sworn law enforcement officers, some in uniform, and all in  
25 Rankin County issued vehicles, brutally terrorized and carried

1 out crimes of hate against Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker at  
2 135 Conerly Road in Braxton, Rankin County, Mississippi.

3 As we've discussed with the Court, on the evening hours of  
4 January 24th, McAlpin received a complaint from a white  
5 neighbor that there were several African American males staying  
6 at the home on 135 Conerly and had observed suspicious  
7 behavior, and Dedmon was called by McAlpin to take care of it,  
8 and Dedmon took it from there.

9 He notified his codefendants, Elward, Opdyke, and  
10 Middleton, about a mission. Why did he choose those particular  
11 individuals? He had done stuff with them before. Just 30  
12 days, 45 days earlier on the side of the road on Interstate 20,  
13 he had done something almost similar.

14 In a group text, Dedmon wrote, "Are you available for a  
15 mission," a phrase all were familiar with. He warned the group  
16 to the possibility of cameras at the home, told his  
17 codefendants, "There's a chance of cameras, let's approach east  
18 and work easy."

19 Dedmon knew and the others knew that this meant to knock  
20 on the door rather than knock it down if there were cameras.  
21 And Elward and Opdyke responded with their affirmation as well,  
22 with an eyeroll emoji and a GIF of a baby crying. That was  
23 followed up with Dedmon saying, "If we don't see cameras, go,  
24 and no bad mugshots." Because previously, as we put in our  
25 sentencing information, this defendant has been involved in an

1 incident where a defendant was hit in the face. And based on  
2 that hitting in the face, the phrase "no bad mugshots" came  
3 about. So you are free to hit people. Just don't do it where  
4 somebody can see it.

5 Based upon those texts, Middleton, Elward, and Opdyke  
6 headed to that Cato volunteer fire department to wait for the  
7 go signal, and Dedmon had told the group he had his friend  
8 Hartfield with him, a Richland Police Department officer. And  
9 it's important to note that they weren't out working. They had  
10 been at a neighbor's house barbecuing or getting ready to eat  
11 dinner. And at no time was a question asked, hesitation noted,  
12 or unwillingness to participate stated.

13 Dedmon and Hartfield proceeded to that meet location, but  
14 they didn't stop. They flew on by as quickly as they could to  
15 get to that location to inflict the torture and abuse that  
16 ensued. They were not serving and protecting on that night.  
17 They didn't have that in mind at all.

18 As they got to the property, they noticed the camera above  
19 the front door, so Dedmon, Elward, and Opdyke went to a  
20 different door where no camera was present. They didn't knock,  
21 they didn't ring the doorbell, they just started kicking the  
22 door open.

23 And there's a reason why Elward and Opdyke were chosen.  
24 Recall their size as they have appeared before the Court. Once  
25 they entered, Elward and Opdyke immediately encountered Mr.

1 Jenkins and Mr. Parker, two African American men, in the  
2 hallway. They placed them in handcuffs and tased them multiple  
3 times. They continued to tase them and scream at them.

4 Hartfield forcefully entered through the back door, and  
5 moments later Middleton and McAlpin go through the residence.  
6 Dedmon all the while was demanding to know where the drugs  
7 were. When Mr. Parker responded that there were no drugs, he  
8 became more enraged, just as you heard on the side of  
9 Interstate 20. He unholstered his gun and fired toward the  
10 back of the house. Sounds extremely familiar to a previous  
11 incident that we have discussed.

12 At no time did anyone intervene, yell "Stop," or render  
13 aid to Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Parker. They continued to perpetuate  
14 the hate crime. This defendant and his other white  
15 codefendants continued the unimaginable torture by moving Mr.  
16 Jenkins and Mr. Parker to the living room where they were  
17 called racial slurs, like the N word, monkey, and boy, and  
18 accused them of taking advantage of the white woman who lived  
19 in the home, warning them to go back to Jackson, to their side  
20 of the river, all the while this defendant was repeatedly  
21 dry-stunning Michael Jenkins with his taser.

22 But that was not enough. During the search of the home,  
23 Opdyke kicked in a padlocked door and found a BB gun and a  
24 flesh-toned dildo. The dildo was placed at the end of the BB  
25 gun, and Dedmon and Opdyke forced it into the mouths of Mr.

1 Jenkins and Mr. Parker, and then Dedmon began to hit them in  
2 the face with it. They were forced then on their backs, still  
3 handcuffed, and this defendant took the dildo and threatened to  
4 anally rape Michael Jenkins but was not successful because  
5 Michael Jenkins had defecated on himself.

6 The abuse and torture did not end here. Still, not a  
7 single law enforcement officer intervened, not a single law  
8 enforcement officer said, "Stop," and not a single law  
9 enforcement officer rendered aid. The torture and abuse  
10 continued with Elward holding Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker  
11 down while Dedmon went to the kitchen, into the refrigerator,  
12 grabbed milk, found alcohol and chocolate syrup, poured it on  
13 their faces and in their mouths, and Elward followed that up by  
14 throwing eggs at the wall.

15 When they realized they couldn't take them to jail or  
16 anywhere else with the food all over their faces, they forced  
17 them to take their clothes off, took the handcuffs off and  
18 forced them to shower. After the shower, they were allowed to  
19 get dressed, but they were rehandcuffed and taken to another  
20 room.

21 The defendants then found other items inside the house to  
22 continue the torture, like a sword used by Middleton, a wooden  
23 kitchen implement used by Opdyke, and pieces of wood used by  
24 Dedmon to hit and strike Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker. And  
25 still no one said, "Stop."

1           And we've discussed much about the difference in tasers.  
2       And the defendants in this case discussed it a lot as well that  
3       night. Hartfield had a different taser because he was with the  
4       Richland Police Department. And those with the Rankin County  
5       Sheriff's Department, their tasers didn't seem to be as strong.  
6       They engaged in a game of taser hot potato. Which one hurts  
7       worse? So Dedmon, Hartfield, Middleton, and Elward all took  
8       turns using those tasers on Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker,  
9       inflicting serious bodily injury.

10           McAlpin and Middleton found a moment to step away to see  
11       if there was anything in the house that might be of interest to  
12       them. They found some rubber bar mats to steal and even took  
13       them out to their cars. Meanwhile, Michael Jenkins and Eddie  
14       Parker continued to scream from pain and torture that was being  
15       inflicted upon them from the moment this defendant and his  
16       codefendants entered that house. Those cries were ignored by  
17       everyone. They continued to inflict pain and torture. They  
18       failed to intervene and they failed to protect as they had  
19       sworn to do so.

20           A second time Dedmon felt it necessary to remove his  
21       firearm from his holster at 135 Conerly Road when he fired out  
22       into the yard to inflict fear in Michael Jenkins and Eddie  
23       Parker. Around the same time, Elward removed his firearm from  
24       the holster, removed a bullet from the chamber, stuck it in  
25       Michael Jenkins' mouth while he was in handcuffs and pulled the

1 trigger. The gun didn't fire. Elward put his firearm back  
2 inside Michael Jenkins' mouth a second time and fired, but this  
3 time a bullet severed Michael Jenkins' tongue and exited out of  
4 his neck, causing permanent life-threatening injuries. He was  
5 left bleeding on the floor next to his friend, Eddie Parker,  
6 instead of rendering aid.

7 Dedmon and all the other defendants went outside, huddled  
8 up to figure out what to do next. Never once was the idea to  
9 call 911 or render aid at that moment.

10 The cover-up included lying to investigators, an offer to  
11 plant a throw gun, manipulating the GPS data in Rankin County  
12 Sheriff's Office radios and the patrol vehicles, planting the  
13 BB gun, pressuring Eddie Parker to go along with a story  
14 McAlpin told him, writing false reports, filing false  
15 affidavits and arrest warrants, sending drugs to the lab that  
16 were not recovered or at all connected, hide those soiled  
17 clothes that had been removed from Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parker,  
18 but they were too wet to burn. They removed the hard drive,  
19 they removed a shell casing, and all agreed to go along with  
20 it. And McAlpin and Middleton ensured that that would be the  
21 plan because they threatened to kill everyone.

22 They had no little regard for their actions that not only  
23 was the pouring of milk, chocolate syrup, alcohol, and I failed  
24 to mention grease on Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parker, additional  
25 food was left out in the residence for coming days to cause an

1 odor. And McAlpin urinated in a closet.

2 And I don't want the other indictment -- excuse me, the  
3 other information to get lost of the activity that Mr. Dedmon  
4 participated in. He told you the exact reason why he went out  
5 there. It was for his own selfish gain. He manipulated the  
6 fact that he was a law enforcement officer to terrorize another  
7 member of the community. He used a license plate tracking  
8 system to notify him when that vehicle associated with Alan  
9 Schmidt was found driving, he had it stopped, and he had those  
10 officers call him and hold Mr. Schmidt on the side of the road  
11 until this defendant arrived.

12 Eerily familiar to the events in January, in December he  
13 grabbed a gun from Opdyke's holster, he fired it at the ground  
14 to scare, and he grabbed Mr. Schmidt's genitalia and threatened  
15 to kill him, trying to extract a confession. That was not  
16 enough. They didn't take him to jail. Dedmon and Elward then  
17 continued to abuse him by taking him in Dedmon's truck to a  
18 home in Jackson where they thought the stolen property was  
19 ultimately located. And Dedmon never reported these actions to  
20 the Rankin County Sheriff's Department. He was not at all  
21 remorseful at that time.

22 This defendant organized both of these missions. He  
23 organized and participated in countless other missions that are  
24 referenced in the presentence investigation report, beginning  
25 on page 48 and 49, Your Honor. We ask the Court to take note

1 of all the events that are listed in the presentence  
2 investigation report and this defendant's involvement. It goes  
3 through page 58.

4 He was not at all afraid to use excessive force on any of  
5 these incidents. He had been with the sheriff's department for  
6 7 to 8 years, as his counsel just told the Court. He may be  
7 young, but he had the experience. He had the experience not to  
8 do what he was doing. He hid behind his badge and gun.

9 His acts are egregious, they are serious, they are  
10 lawless. The acts committed prior to December, 2022, the acts  
11 committed on December 4, 2022, and in January 2023 warrant and  
12 demand a sentence at the top of the guideline range. The  
13 evaluation of the 3553(a) factors, as the Court notes what  
14 those factors are, they all warrant and demand that sentence of  
15 502 months imprisonment, and we ask the Court to sentence  
16 accordingly.

17 **THE COURT:** Conclude with the presentation of  
18 allocution for the defendant, if you have anything further.

19 **MR. CORY:** Judge, we don't have anything further.

20 **THE COURT:** All right. I want to be sure that the  
21 record includes the various letters, character letters  
22 submitted for Mr. Dedmon, I think there are around 23 of them,  
23 as well as the respective sentencing memoranda for the  
24 government and the defendant. The letters from the -- the  
25 members of the NAACP are already in the record with regard to

1 previous sentences.

2           **MS. CHALK:** Your Honor, if I may, we would request  
3 that our sentencing memo be filed publicly with PACER and our  
4 remaining sentencing documents be filed under seal.

5           **THE COURT:** That request is granted.

6           **MS. CHALK:** Thank you, Your Honor.

7           **THE COURT:** The Court is ready to pronounce sentence.  
8 Let the defendant and counsel come to the podium.

9           Mr. Dedmon, besides Mr. McAlpin and Mr. Middleton, whose  
10 roles in the crimes charged related to the attack on Mr.  
11 Jenkins and Mr. Parker is exacerbated largely because of their  
12 role as the superior officers on scene and their having been  
13 primarily responsible for devising the cover-up scheme, you,  
14 Mr. Dedmon committed the most egregious acts on both that  
15 attack and the attack on Mr. Schmidt. By that, I don't mean  
16 that just the most egregious conduct of all the defendants  
17 before me in these cases but the most shocking, brutal and  
18 cruel acts imaginable, and you deserve to be punished  
19 accordingly.

20           The Court, therefore, imposes sentence accordingly. The  
21 Court has considered the advisory guideline computations and  
22 the sentencing factors under 18, United States Code, Section  
23 3553(a), and it's the judgment of the Court that you, Christian  
24 Lee Dedmon, serve a term of 120 months imprisonment as to  
25 Counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 13, all to run concurrently

1 with each other, Counts 11 and 12 and Counts 1 and 2 of Docket  
2 Number 3:23cr63. As to Count 5, you shall serve a term of 120  
3 months, to run consecutively to all counts. As to Counts 6 and  
4 11, you shall serve a term of imprisonment of 240 months to run  
5 concurrently to Counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 13, and Counts  
6 1 and 2 of Docket Number 3:23cr63, and consecutively to Count 5  
7 and Count 3 of Docket Number 3:23cr63. As to Counts 1 and 2 of  
8 Docket Number 3:23cr63, you shall serve a term of 120 months,  
9 to run concurrently to Count 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and  
10 13, and consecutively to Count 5 of Docket Number 3:23cr62. As  
11 to Count 3, you shall serve a term of 120 months imprisonment  
12 to run consecutively to all other counts, for a total  
13 imprisonment term of 480 months in the custody of the U.S.  
14 Bureau of Prisons. These sentences shall run concurrent to the  
15 anticipated state court sentence.

16 Based on your financial condition, the Court finds that  
17 you don't have the ability to pay a fine in addition to  
18 mandatory restitution, so no fine is imposed. Restitution in  
19 the amount of \$79,500 is ordered and payable immediately and  
20 during the term of incarceration. Restitution is ordered  
21 payable to the U.S. Clerk of Court, who will forward the  
22 payments to the victims as listed on the judgment order. This  
23 payment amount is payable jointly and severally with the  
24 codefendants in this case. In the event that the restitution  
25 is not paid in full prior to termination of supervised release,

1 you are ordered to enter into a written agreement with the  
2 financial litigation program of the U.S. Attorney's Office for  
3 payment of the remaining balance.

4 Additionally, the value of future discovered assets may be  
5 applied to offset the balance of criminal monetary penalties.  
6 You may be included in the Treasury Offset Program allowing  
7 qualified federal benefits to be applied to offset the balance  
8 of criminal monetary penalties.

9 The term of imprisonment shall be immediately followed by  
10 a three-year term of supervised release as to each count, to  
11 run concurrently with each other. Within 72 hours of release  
12 from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, you will report to  
13 the probation office in the district to which you are released.

14 While on supervised release, you shall comply with the  
15 mandatory conditions pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section  
16 3583 (d) .

17 Further, the Court finds the standard conditions of  
18 supervision as listed on the judgment order and in part G of  
19 the presentence investigation report, which have been adopted  
20 by this Court, are reasonably related to the factors set forth  
21 in 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a)(1), (a)(2)(B), (C),  
22 and (D), and involve no greater deprivation of liberty than  
23 reasonably necessary for the purposes set forth in that  
24 section.

25 Further, these conditions are consistent with the policy

1 statements issued by the Sentencing Commission pursuant to 26,  
2 United States Code, Section 994(a). Therefore, you will comply  
3 with the standard conditions of supervision on the judgment  
4 order, which includes the prohibition of possessing a firearm.

5 In addition, the following special conditions, totaling  
6 five, are imposed: One, you must not communicate or otherwise  
7 interact with the victims MJ, EP or AS either directly or  
8 through someone else without first obtaining the permission of  
9 the probation officer.

10 Two, you shall not incur new credit charges or open  
11 additional lines of credit without the approval of the  
12 probation officer unless you are in compliance with the  
13 installment payment schedule.

14 Three, you shall provide the probation office with access  
15 to any requested financial information.

16 Four, you shall pay outstanding restitution imposed by the  
17 Court in accordance with the schedule of payments sheet of this  
18 judgment. You must also notify the Court of any changes in  
19 economic circumstances that might affect the ability to pay  
20 restitution.

21 Five, based on the nature of the instant offense,  
22 offenses, you shall submit your person, property, house,  
23 residence, vehicle, papers, or office to a search conducted by  
24 a United States Probation Officer. Failure to submit to a  
25 search may be grounds for revocation of release. You shall

1 warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to  
2 searches pursuant to this condition. An officer may conduct a  
3 search pursuant to this condition only when reasonable  
4 suspicion exists that you have violated a condition of your  
5 supervision and that the area to be searched contains evidence  
6 of this violation. Any search must be conducted in a  
7 reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.

8       The Court notes that if it erred in the calculation of the  
9 sentencing guidelines, the Court would have imposed the same  
10 sentence as a variance based on the offense conduct in this  
11 case, your characteristics, and the other factors found at 18,  
12 United States Code, Section 3553(a) .

13       I made an inadvertent error in pronouncing the sentence.  
14 It had been prepared and I misstated in this respect. The  
15 Court imposes a term of 240 months imprisonment as to Counts 2  
16 and 12, not 6 and 11, as previously stated. And I'm misreading  
17 again. As to Counts 11 and 12, not what I said. I'm going to  
18 state it again. The Court imposes a term of 240 months  
19 imprisonment as to Counts 11 and 12, not 6 and 11 as previously  
20 stated. I had prepared it and I had done some interlining and  
21 I misread it.

22       That concludes the sentencing in the case. Is there  
23 anything further from the government or the defendant?

24           **MS. CHALK:** Your Honor, I may have missed it, but the  
25 special assessment, was it imposed, a hundred dollars per

1 | count?

2                   **THE COURT:** It very well may not have been. The  
3 error I made has been called to my attention, and I probably  
4 missed it, but there's a special assessment of a hundred  
5 dollars per count, payable immediately. It's the total number  
6 of counts times a hundred is the amount of the special  
7 assessment.

8                   **MR. CORY:** Judge, just so I'm clear, the total  
9 sentence of the Court is 480 months?

11                   **MR. CORY:** Also, we would ask, I know it's just a  
12 recommendation, but if the Court would recommend placement at  
13 the nearest facility available near Rankin County for Mr.  
14 Dedmon.

15                   **THE COURT:** That will be the recommendation of the  
16 Court, the nearest. And again, you understand that I don't  
17 have the authority, but I can make recommendations, and  
18 oftentimes the Bureau of Prisons follows those recommendations,  
19 and I will make that recommendation.

20 || MR. CORY: Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Anything further?

22 MS. CHALK: No, Your Honor.

23                   **THE COURT:** That concludes the sentencing, and Court  
24 is adjourned until 9:00 tomorrow morning.

25 || (HEARING CONCLUDED)

1

## 2 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

3

4 I, Teri B. Norton, RMR, FCRR, RDR, Official Court  
5 Reporter for the United States District Court for the Southern  
6 District of Mississippi, appointed pursuant to the provisions  
7 of Title 28, United States Code, Section 753, do hereby certify  
8 that the foregoing is a correct transcript of the proceedings  
9 reported by me using the stenotype reporting method in  
10 conjunction with computer-aided transcription, and that same is  
11 a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and  
12 understanding.

13 I further certify that the transcript fees and format  
14 comply with those prescribed by the Court and the Judicial  
15 Conference of the United States.

16

17

18

19 S/ *Teri B. Norton*  
20 TERI B. NORTON, RMR, FCRR, RDR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

21

22

23

24

25